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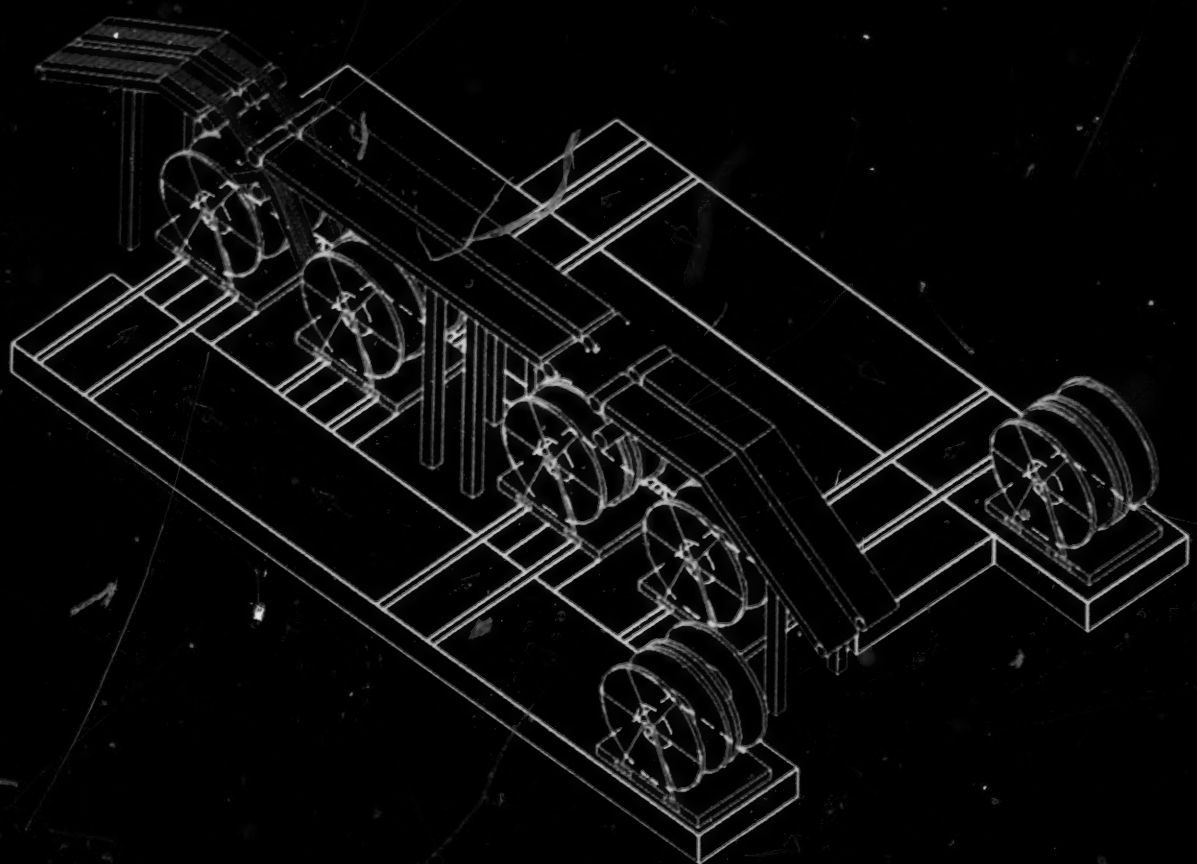
RubberWorld

The technical service magazine for the rubber industry

Volume 198. No. 3 June 1988

Computer aided: design, engineering and manufacturing



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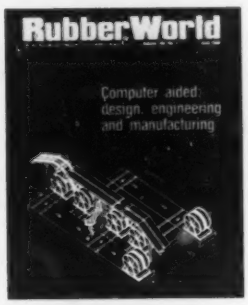

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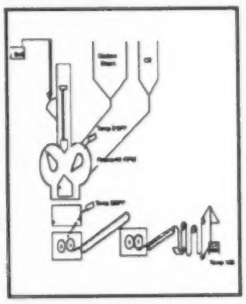

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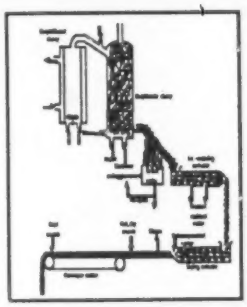

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Cover photo courtesy of General Tire.

A Lippincott & Peto Publication

Editorial

Without any discernible opposition to ratification of the International Natural Rubber Agreement, the Reagan administration's actions concerning the renewal are a mystery. After stating there wasn't any money appropriated for U.S. participation in the pact, the government reversed itself and said they found the funds and asked the Senate to ratify the agreement. Supposedly, funds already provided for support of buffer stock obligations under INRA I can remain available for INRA II. What purpose was served by indicating the U.S. wouldn't participate because it didn't have the dues?

Another international agreement that has little opposition is the Montreal Protocol, which deals with reducing ozone depletion by limiting the production of chlorofluorocarbons. This pact, universally accepted, will freeze and gradually reduce global CFC output by 50% before the end of the century. Du Pont, the world's top producer of CFCs, is phasing out production. This move should be applauded by all. Phasing out a $600 million a year business is a tough decision. But Du Pont made a promise back in 1974 that it would cease production if scientific evidence linked the compounds with ozone depletion. Some are skeptical of the company's motives, claiming that substitutes for CFCs will be more expensive and probably more profitable, but that's not the issue. Du Pont made a responsible decision, even though they could have stuck to the position that the evidence is inconclusive. And it's good to see others, namely Dow and Pennwalt, phasing out CFCs as well. This shows a corporate responsibility that few in the public are aware of, and a positive move by the companies involved.

The Rubber Division of the American Chemical Society has made a number of positive moves recently, but there has also been a regression. Recently the Division instituted new awards to recognize accomplishments of people within the industry, in addition to the Charles Goodyear Medal Award. The Melvin Mooney Distinguished Technology Award, the George Stafford Whitby Award for distinguished teaching and academic research and the Fernley H. Banbury Award have been given the past two times around. But the fourth award, the Sparks-Thomas Award, was not presented at the most recent meeting. This award is to recognize and encourage outstanding scientific contributions and innovations by younger scientists, technologists and engineers. It's hard to image that no one in the rubber industry under the age of 40 qualified for this award. We know that the integrity of the awards is a concern to some, but we feel this is an important award and should be given on a regular basis, just like the others. Remember, the award is to recognize and encourage.

Don R. Smith
Editor

RubberWorld

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- Product News
- Automotive Polymers & Design
- Blue Book: Materials, Compounding Ingredients, and Machinery for Rubber

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Business Briefs

Acquisitions, expansions

Dunlop will invest $70 million to $100 million in a new medium truck radial tire plant at its Buffalo, NY facility.

Kelly-Springfield Tire is investing $18.8 million for new mixing, stock preparation, tire building and curing equipment, along with a 29,000 sq. ft. addition to production space at its Fayettville, NC tire plant.

Bridgestone has begun production of the first U.S.-made, Japanese-brand passenger radial tires in North America at its La Vergne, TN facility. Production will be approximately 6,000 passenger tires daily by 1989.

Goodall Rubber Co., Trenton, NJ has been acquired by **Trelleborg, AB** of Sweden and will operate as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Trelleborg.

GenCorp signed a letter of intent to purchase the assets of the extruded rubber division of **Bailey Corp.**, Seabrook, NH. The division manufactures vehicle sealing products.

Polysar Inc. completed the first stage of upgrading and expanding silicone rubber compounding at its Akron, OH facility. Dough mixers and automated take-off equipment are being added.

RM Engineered Products, North Charleston, SC, acquired **Newco Holz Rubber**, Lodi, CA, and renamed the aerospace/defense supplier **RM-Holz Inc.**

The Standard Products Co. will begin production of extrusion and trim parts for the automotive original equipment market this summer in the 85,000 sq. ft. plant in Spartanburg, SC, acquired from the **Hersey Products Corp.**

The clay division of **J.M. Huber** will invest $100 million over the next four years in its kaolin mining and beneficiating facilities in two Georgia facilities.

Arco Chemical announced startup of a plant for flexible polyols with an annual production capacity of 125 million pounds at its manufacturing complex in Channelview, TX.

Hercules Tire & Rubber, Findlay, OH, acquired **Custom Engineering Design Co.**, Springfield, MO, a manufacturer of precure retreading equipment.

Cyprus Industrial Minerals purchased **Vermont Talc.** Included in the acquisition were mines, mills, reserves and two processing facilities.

CR Industries acquired the assets of **Korody-Colyer Corp.**, Wilmington, CA, a producer of replacement parts for heavy duty diesel engines.

ICI Resins US, formerly **Polyvinyl Chemicals**, opened a plant in Frankfort, IN to produce water-borne polymers.

G.F. Goodman & Son opened a west coast sales office in Ventura, CA for its line of equipment.

PPG Industries broke ground for a fiber glass reinforcement evaluation center adjacent to its fiber glass manufacturing plant in Shelby, NC.

A group of local investors purchased the assets of **Reflexion Industries**, West Memphis, AK, a manufacturer of truck bumpers for pick-up trucks.

Arthur D. Little, Inc. opened a center for product development at its Cambridge, MA facilities.

Akzo Chemicals opened a Polyurethane Development Center at its research center in McCook, IL.

Allied-Signal started up a pilot plant to produce HCFC-141b for evaluation by customers as a replacement for CFC-11 blowing agent in urethane foams at its Buffalo, NY laboratory.

Contracts, licenses

Union Carbide and **General Electric** agreed to combine silicone businesses into a joint venture company. **GE-Carbide Silicones** will be headquartered in Waterford, NY. Union Carbide produces organofunctional silanes, specialty fluids and surfactant copolymers and GE Silicones manufactures heat cured rubber, RTV elastomers and resin systems. GE Silicones' manufacturing facilities are in Waterford, Toronto, Canada and Bergen op Zoom, The Netherlands. Union Carbide's silicone manufacturing facilities are in Tarrytown, NY, Sistersville and Versoix, Switzerland. Prior to the merger, **GE Silicones** formed a joint venture with **Oriental Chemical Industry Co.**, Seoul, South Korea and **Toshiba Silicone Co.**, Tokyo, Japan. **Don-**

RMA tire report through February (figures in thousands of units)

Passenger tires	YTD '88	YTD '87	% change
Shipments			
original equipment	8,375	9,727	-13.9
radial	7,128	8,218	-13.3
replacement	21,437	20,494	4.6
radial	20,002	18,153	10.2
export	1,671	867	92.7
radial	1,474	739	99.3
total	31,483	31,088	1.3
radial	28,603	27,110	5.5
Production	29,279	27,836	5.2
radial	26,421	24,121	9.5
Truck & bus tires			
Shipments			
original equipment	1,403	1,248	12.5
radial	1,024	880	16.3
replacement	4,867	4,801	1.4
radial	2,868	2,476	15.8
export	513	280	83.2
radial	389	199	96.1
total	6,783	6,328	7.2
radial	4,281	3,555	20.4
Production	6,093	5,636	8.1
radial	3,650	3,022	20.8

Business Briefs

BFGoodrich had first quarter net income of $34.7 million on sales of $588 million.

British Petroleum reported first quarter profit of $705 million on revenues of $1.09 billion.

Carlisle Companies had first quarter net earnings of $4.9 million on sales of $139 million.

Continental AG reported 1987 net income of DM 55.8 million with group sales of DM 5.09 billion. The sales from its General Tire subsidiary were not included in the figures.

Cooper Tire & Rubber announced earnings for the first quarter of $6.8 million on sales of $161 million.

Essex Chemical reported first quarter net income of $2.1 million on sales of $62.4 million.

Goodyear's net income for the first quarter was $95.3 million on sales of $2.6 billion.

M.A. Hanna Co. reported first quarter net income of $13.1 million on sales of $240.1 million.

Lubrizol announced first quarter net income was $23.7 million on sales of $295.9 million.

Lydall, Inc. reported first quarter earnings of $1.6 million on sales of $37.5 million.

NL Industries had a first quarter net income of $35.1 million on sales of $363.5 million.

Park-Ohio Industries reported a first quarter net loss of $626,000 with sales of $30 million.

Parker Hannifin reported third quarter net income of $27.5 million on sales of $574 million.

PPG Industries had first quarter net earnings of $118.6 million on sales of $1.373 billion.

The Standard Products Co. had a third quarter net income of $10.3 million on sales of $133.5 million.

Union Camp reported first quarter net income of $67.5 million on sales of $645.3 million.

RMA rubber report through February
(figures in metric tons)

	YTD 1988	YTD 1987	% change
Total new rubber			
New rubber available	568,396	554,858	2.4
Imports	202,316	190,277	6.3
Exports	90,894	77,011	18.0
Apparent consumption	469,371	464,233	-1.1
Total natural rubber			
Imports	152,793	144,070	6.1
Exports	6,815	6,884	-1.0
Apparent consumption	144,041	135,318	8.3
Total synthetic rubber			
Production	366,080	366,581	-.1
Imports	49,523	46,207	7.2
Exports	84,079	70,127	19.9
Apparent consumption	325,339	328,913	-1.1
Total SBR			
Production	145,528	139,168	4.6
Imports	13,824	13,944	-.9
Exports	30,826	26,543	16.1
Apparent consumption	121,752	126,126	-3.5
Total nitrile			
Production	10,693	11,395	-6.2
Imports	3,217	2,058	56.3
Exports	2,630	1,770	48.6
Apparent consumption	12,086	10,643	13.5
Polybutadiene			
Production	65,065	61,270	6.2
Imports	12,772	14,049	-9.1
Exports	12,542	10,922	14.8
Apparent consumption	61,442	62,110	-1.1
Ethylene-propylene			
Production	40,840	44,174	-7.6
Imports	687	888	-.1
Exports	9,429	7,500	25.7
Apparent consumption	35,045	33,054	6.0
Butyl, polychloroprene, polyisoprene, silicone and other synthetic elastomers			
Production	103,954	108,573	-4.3
Imports	18,823	15,268	23.3
Exports	28,652	23,392	22.5
Apparent consumption	95,013	96,980	-2.0

Markets, news

The Reagan administration concluded that funds already provided for the International Natural Rubber Organization to support our buffer stock obligations under the INRA I can remain available to support INRA II obligations. The Senate is expected to ratify the treaty.

Correction

Valley Rubber Mixing's listing was omitted from the 1988 Blue Book. The listing should have read:

Valley Rubber Mixing
1872 Akron-Peninsula Road
Akron, OH 44313
(216) 928-2048
James A. Beresford, president
Jack L. Reilly, vice president
mixing capabilities: all polymers, all colors, most blacks.
mixing: open mill, high intensity mixer to 1,000 lb. batch size.
tech service: yes
recipe development: yes
Valley Rubber Mixing also has a complete line of rubber chemical dispersions under the Val-Mix tradename.